

In the Claims:

Kindly find below, a reproduction of all claims pending in this application with Claims 1, 18, 20 and 25 shown as amended, Claim 15 deleted, without prejudice, and new Claim 26 added, as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of eliminating "sticky shed" syndrome from magnetic recording tape, said tape including a [Mylar Base] polyethylene terephthalate base, a Backcoating on one face of said base, and a magnetic recording medium on an opposite face of said base, the method including the steps of:

- a) contacting said Backcoating with a solvent; and
- b) removing said Backcoating from said base with said solvent.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said contacting step includes the step of impregnating a cleaning medium with said solvent and contacting said Backcoating with said cleaning medium.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said cleaning medium comprises cotton.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein said solvent comprises isopropyl alcohol.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further including the step of providing said cleaning medium on a reel and unreeling said cleaning medium into engagement with said Backcoating.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further including the steps of providing a support for said tape, conveying said tape to said support, and conveying said cleaning medium into engagement with said Backcoating at said support.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further including the step of providing an absorbent medium underlying said tape on said support.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including the step, after said removing step, of dry cleaning said base to remove any remaining Backcoating and solvent.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further including the step, after said removing step, of dry cleaning said base to remove any remaining Backcoating and solvent.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein said dry cleaning step is carried out by engaging said tape with a cleaning medium.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said cleaning medium comprises cotton.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein after said removing step, further including the step of dry cleaning said magnetic recording medium to remove any residual Backcoating therefrom.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording medium comprises a Metal Oxide coating.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein after said removing step, further including the step of dry cleaning said Metal Oxide coating to remove any residual Backcoating therefrom.

15. ~~(Deleted)~~ cancelled

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including the step of locating a camera overlying said tape to monitor said tape.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further including the step of providing a playback head to play said tape after said removing step.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of eliminating "sticky shed" syndrome from magnetic recording tape, said tape including a [Mylar Base] polyethylene terephthalate base, a Backcoating on one

face of said base, and a magnetic recording medium on an opposite face of said base, the method including the steps of:

- a) contacting said Backcoating with [alcohol] solvent;
- b) removing said Backcoating from said base with said solvent, after said removing step, dry cleaning said base to remove any remaining Backcoating and solvent.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said contacting step includes the step of impregnating cotton with said solvent and contacting said Backcoating with said cotton.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said [alcohol] solvent comprises isopropyl alcohol.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further including the step of providing said cotton on a reel and unreeling said cotton into engagement with said Backcoating.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, further including the steps of providing a support for said tape, conveying said tape to said support, and conveying said cotton into engagement with said Backcoating at said support.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further including the step of providing an absorbent medium underlying said tape on said support.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said dry cleaning step is carried out by engaging said tape with a cleaning medium.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of eliminating "sticky shed" syndrome from magnetic recording tape, said tape including a base, a Backcoating on one face of said base, and a magnetic recording medium on an opposite face of said base, the method including the step of removing said Backcoating from said base without application of heat.

26. (New) The method of Claim 25, wherein said removing step comprises chemically removing said Backcoating from said base.